

Tips for Getting your Restoration Project Funded

- Form a Watershed Group, or some kind of restoration work group with individuals of different backgrounds and expertise.
- Identify a fiscal agent (such as a non-profit, for profit or government agency) that can accept funds.
- Contact your local representative for the funding source that you would like to pursue. Up front communication with the funding source staff will save you time in the long run. Give a brief description of the project and invite the staff member on a pre-proposal site visit. The funding source personnel may have suggestions on ways to improve your project.
- Examine potential sources of matching funds (volunteer labor, supplies, equipment and personnel time) that you can offer to the project. These matching funds will improve your chances of receiving funding.
- Determine the local, state and federal permits that will be needed to complete your project and develop a time line for when you expect to receive these permits.
- Apply for funding opportunities specific to your project type and funding needs. Make sure your grant application addresses these specifics in the text. For example, if you are applying for a salmon habitat restoration grant, your application should be focused on how the project will benefit salmon (even though it may also benefit other organisms too). In short, try to speak the review team's language in the text.
- Follow the Request for Proposal (RFP) directions! Provide all requested information in the designated format. Describe in detail the current conditions at the site, how you plan to implement your project, and how you will monitor your results.
- Identify success criteria – how will you (and the funders) know if the project is successful?
- Provide matching funds. For NOAA grants, match can be in the form of:
 - Volunteer hours
 - Donated equipment, supplies, facilities or land
 - Additional grants for the same project (depending on funding source)
 - Contributions from organizations
- Continue to communicate with local staff from the funding source (even if you do not receive funding). If you don't get funded, ask why. Many times there are just too many good applications and not enough funds to go around. Other times there are small problems with part of the project that can be easily modified and resubmitted at the next request for proposals. Always ask!